

IX.—THE SHWE-U-DAUNG GAME SANCTUARY,  
UPPER BURMA, WITH A NOTE ON THE ASIATIC  
TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS (*R. SUMATRENSIS*).

(With a plate.)

I enclose some notes and photographs taken by me during a fortnight's tour in the Shwe-u-daung Game Sanctuary in Upper Burma. They may be of interest to readers of the Society's Journal.

The Sanctuary extends over 126 square miles; 75 per cent of which is heavily afforested. The more elevated portions of the Sanctuary assume the form of a high watershed which stretches for about 10 miles at altitudes varying from 4,000 ft. to 6,223 ft. on the Shwe-u-daung peak. The main peaks, the ridge, and most of the high spurs leading from it are partly or altogether bare of tree growth over considerable areas. They are covered by a coarse grass which is from 1 to 3 feet high on the higher slopes; but this gives way to very high *kaing* grass in depressions and on the borders of the forests which clothe all the lower portions of the Sanctuary. The climate on the main ridge is cold and bracing, and with the exception of a few blood-blister flies most of the insect pests found lower down are absent.

The three main peaks; Shwe-u-daung, Nanmadawgyi, and Nanmadawgalay are popularly supposed to be the abode of certain *Nats* (spirits,) which are held in some reverence by the Shan villagers near the Sanctuary, and serve most opportunely to preserve the sanctity of this stronghold of wild game. It is an area the high ground of which is eminently suited to be a National Park of the future. The transition to this desirable end must be gradual; but it is hoped that it will not be very long before the communications are improved and this area made available as a resort of every lover of nature and wild animals.

All species of animals indigenous to Northern Burma with the exception of Thamin, Goral, and Hog-deer are found within the Sanctuary. Saing (*Bibos banteng*) are found on the low ground in the western parts of the Sanctuary but do not climb high into the hills. With this exception, all the species may be found in due season on the open grassy slopes on and near the main ridge. During my visit from October 24th to November 6th the grass was too coarse to attract Bison to the main ridge and only one herd of 15 was seen out in the open. Sambhur, however, were plentiful and were on view in the open at all hours of the day in herds of from 3 to 10 individuals. They are not shy; but being unaccustomed to the sight of human beings desert the open ground for a few days after seeing men. This fault can be easily set right during the transition stage between a Sanctuary and a National Park. In March to May the numbers of animals on view would be far greater.





THE SHWE-U-DAUNG GAME SANCTUARY.



THE ASIATIC TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS (*R. summatrensis*), SHOT IN THE SANCTUARY.



